

Pipeline Act. The legislation would immediately authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

My constituents are sick and tired of the delays in approving and building the Keystone pipeline. The recent drop in gas prices highlights the economic benefits of increased energy production right here in North America.

Building the Keystone pipeline will increase access to more North American energy sources and further reduce our dependence on oil from the Middle East. For the first time in decades, North American energy independence is within our grasp if we make the critical investments in the necessary infrastructure.

President Obama's opposition to the Keystone pipeline and all of its economic benefits shows just how out of touch he is with middle class working families.

The State Department studied the environmental impacts of the Keystone XL pipeline and concluded that it would not have a negative impact. Furthermore, the State Department found that the Keystone XL pipeline project would support roughly 42,000 jobs. Earlier today, the Nebraska Supreme Court dismissed a key lawsuit challenging the Keystone XL pipeline.

The passage of H.R. 3 is the tenth bill approved by the House of Representatives to authorize the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Thankfully, the new Republican majority in the Senate has indicated it will take action on similar legislation next week. I know my constituents and hardworking American families hope we can finally start construction on this economically important project.

PEARLAND LEGACY CONTINUES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate high school student Brooke Botkin for being named to the Texas Sports Writers Association (TSWA) first team and the 2014 Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) Class 6A all-state volleyball teams. Brooke is a sophomore at Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. These honors recognize her hard work and outstanding athletic achievements.

The TSWA and TGCA selected Brooke for her skill and sportsmanship, which have made her a top prospect for collegiate volleyball programs. Her dedication to the sport ensures her place in an elite class of competitors and continues Pearland's legacy of producing some of the nation's best student athletes.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Brooke Botkin for being selected as a first team athlete on the TSWA and TGCA Class 6A all-state volleyball teams. We look forward to her continued success both on and off the court.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

On Friday, January 9, 2015 it was \$18,098,260,560,760.27. We've added \$7,471,383,511,847.19 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

Today, it is \$18,084,817,920,825.53. We've added \$7,457,940,871,912.45 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 16 had I been present, I would have voted aye.

TRIBUTE TO JIM PAULY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have committed community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Jim Pauly is one of these outstanding individuals. On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Jim Pauly will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Corona Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

In the history of Corona, California, few individuals can match the years of devoted service Jim has given to his hometown. After attending local schools throughout his childhood, Jim enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II at seventeen years old as a senior at Corona High School. Following his service in the Armed Forces, Jim returned to attend Chaffey College. In 1947, Jim began working full time at Emerson's Men Clothes. Due to his strong work ethic and commitment to the business, Jim became a partner, changing the name to Emerson-Pauly Menswear. After thriving for over fifty years in Corona retail, Jim retired and closed the storefront in 1993.

Jim's commitment to the business community is only matched by his devotion to service and leadership. Jim regularly contributes to the community through work on the Charity

Solicitation Committee as Vice Chairman of the Downtown Corona Redevelopment Project and as the Chairman of the Corona Parking Authority. Additionally, Jim is involved in several local organizations, frequently offering his guidance. Jim was a member of the 20-30 Club and acted as the president in 1959. As a fifty eight year member of Elks Lodge, Jim served as Lodge Leader in 1959. Jim also holds fifty-five years of membership with the Rotary Club and served as the organization's president in 1965. Finally, in 1966, Jim was appointed to the Corona-Norco Unified School District Board of Trustees. Due to his exceptional work, he was elected twice more to continue to build a strong foundation for the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

In light of all Jim has done for the community of Corona, it is clear he fully deserves the Corona Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement award. Jim's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations, and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call vote on Thursday, January 8, 2015 and Friday, January 9, 2015, I was absent after returning to El Paso due to a shooting that occurred on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the El Paso VA Clinic and subsequent visit by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald to the clinic.

Had I been present, on roll call number 14, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call number 16, I would have voted Nay.

LEADING THE WAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jillian Ross for being elected to the Columbia University Senate for a two-year term through 2016. Jillian is a 2012 graduate of Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas and a chemical/biomedical engineering junior at Columbia University.

Ms. Ross is the first African-American woman elected to represent Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering in the department's 150-year history. Through her position in the university's senate, Jillian will work with school's president and faculty to shape policy on issues that affect the student body and greater Columbia University community.

I commend Jillian Ross for her dedication to serving the interests of her fellow students and taking on the responsibilities that leadership brings. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas,